

week ago, when they buried a young Haitian soldier from my district who was one of the two men who were kidnapped and murdered. So we have fought in all the wars.

We hear people say that there should be a vote in Congress regarding sending 2,000 troops to Liberia. We have not heard that for the Colombians or for Panama. We did not hear that where the President is attempting to go into the Philippines now. Is there a different standard for Africa? Is it that 435 Members must get up and talk about 2,000 troops going into a country that we founded, that we colonized, that we have close ties with, that asked us to come so that the fighting will cease, and that other African countries will be there at our side? Is there a double standard? I hope not.

We have had failures before. There was a failure in Somalia. That did not mean we should no longer then go in on humanitarian issues. I hope this President and administration will have the same standard as we have had throughout this world, whether it was in Panama, whether it was in Colombia, whether it was in the Philippines, whether it is in places like even Haiti, where we went and were not asked to come. I hope that we will send those few peacekeepers, 2,000, to go in and lead the ECOWAS troops so that the cholera can stop, the children can stop dying, and the women can stop dying. They are asking us to come in. I think we have an obligation and a responsibility.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate this opportunity to present this Special Order to the House.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 438, TEACHER RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION ACT OF 2003

Mr. SESSIONS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 108-189) on the resolution (H. Res. 309) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 438), to increase the amount of student loans that may be forgiven for teachers in mathematics, science, and special education, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2211, READY TO TEACH ACT OF 2003

Mr. SESSIONS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 108-190) on the resolution (H. Res. 310) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2211) to reauthorize title II of the Higher Education Act of 1965, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON H.R. 2657, LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2004

Mr. SESSIONS, from the Committee on Appropriations, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 108-191) on the bill (H.R. 2657) making appropriations for the legislative branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes, which was referred to the Union Calendar and ordered to be printed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GERLACH). Pursuant to clause 1, rule XXI, all points of order are reserved on the bill.

REPORT ON H.R. 2660, DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2004

Mr. SESSIONS, from the Committee on Appropriations, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 108-192) on the bill (H.R. 2660) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes, which was referred to the Union Calendar and ordered to be printed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1, rule XXI, all points of order are reserved on the bill.

COLOMBIA AND THE ANDEAN INITIATIVE ON NARCOTICS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order this evening.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to my colleague, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

THE STATE OF AFRICA

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the distinguished gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER) for his kindness, because I am joining the Congressional Black Caucus in their Special Order regarding the State of Africa.

It is this time, Mr. Speaker, that many of us have come to the floor of the House to discuss foreign policy issues that have great concern to us, and I thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) for his leadership over the years as the chairman and

ranking member of the Subcommittee on Africa on the Committee on International Relations, and for his leadership and consciousness about the continent of Africa. Likewise, let me thank the chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus for his wisdom in having us be pointed this evening, pointedly speaking about these very vital issues.

Mr. Speaker, I rise on this floor tonight to speak globally about what the continent represents to the United States of America. Besides the historical perspective of Africa's desire to be an ally and a friend with the United States over the years, throughout the 20th century, from World War I to World War II, it should be known that after 9/11, as many of us were quite aware of, some of the loudest voices in opposition to the horrific incidents that occurred in New York on 9/11, in Washington, and in Pennsylvania was the continent of Africa. Their voices were those of support of the United States in our fight in the war against terrorism. So this bond with Africa and the United States is deep, it is strong, and it needs to be further cultivated.

Clearly, President Clinton established one of the strongest bonds in his long and extended visit just about 4 years ago. It was a visit to not only develop friendships, but to develop economic partnerships in the fight against HIV/AIDS. So I rise today to say that this momentum has not been carried forward, and it disturbs me that we are now debating why a friendship with Africa; why the intrusion, if you will, or the assistance in the issue of Liberia. Why? Because there are 700 million individuals, and that number is growing, who desire a strong and related friendship.

I am very impressed with the Global Business Council, headed by Ambassador Holbrooke, that brought together businesses from the private sector to fight the devastation of HIV/AIDS. I think it is important for Americans to be aware of the fact that so goes the continent of Africa, so goes many of the issues here in the United States. Of the 42 million people infected worldwide, over half, 29 million of them, live in sub-Saharan Africa. Also a higher proportion of women are living with HIV infections or suffering from AIDS than men in Africa. As of 2002, women in sub-Saharan Africa represent more than half, approximately 58 percent, of all adults living with HIV/AIDS.

We can applaud the work that has been done here in this country, as I said, with the Global Business Council; also with the work in this Congress, where we passed legislation in a bipartisan manner to give \$15 billion in aid, as well supporting the Millennium Fund to help in our fight against HIV/AIDS and to help in Africa. But it cannot be continued if we do not embrace the momentum and embrace it in a collaborative way. The President needs to